

HIGH CLASS INVOLVEMENT WHEN TEACHING ADULTS

PARTICIPATION AND THE VALUE OF THE EYE GATE

[an enormous retention factor]

*I've tried many of these, others I've culled from
my students about methods their Bible college instructors have used.*

1. Throw a dart into a map. Start the class with prayer for missionaries to go to that country.
2. Hotseat. One person *[probably a volunteer]* sits on a stool and role plays an unsaved friend. He tries to defend the position of his unbelieving friend. The rest of the class gently and lovingly tries to bring him to faith.
3. Students in Creative Bible Teaching class must prepare their teaching lesson with applications which specifically address each student in the class.
4. Write every major point on the board during class. *I also tell them, "If it is important enough for me to write it on the board, it is important enough to me to ask it during our review next week."*
5. Take students on field trips: cemeteries, ethnic grocery stores, mosque, botanicas, unclean drinking water sources, one-on-one witnessing to immigrants. Sometimes it has been just to go outside to walk off the dimensions of Noah's Ark, to measure the size of Jericho *[i.e. 8 acres]*, or to measure Goliath's height next to a basketball hoop, or show a mark on the side of the building which would be the height of 90 million dollar bills stacked one atop another, or look at the size of my old half-ton pick-up truck with 10 huge black trash bags each full of 100 lbs of "rice" while we're discussing the population of the world, each grain of rice representing one person. *1 lb rice = 25,000+ people*
6. Bring international cookies which students are not allowed to eat until they have prayed that missionaries go to country where kids eat those cookies.
7. Stop class. Ask the students to kneel while we pray for an issue a biblical passage is speaking about and how it should affect our lives.
8. In a class of 150 students, I've asked everyone in the room to express his one-minute opinion on the topic at hand. *In a "Neighbor Nudge" like this they form pairs and each gives his opinion or solution verbally to just one other person.*
9. Follow-up on Neighbor Nudge. I ask for the most significant observations. I ask 5 people to tell the whole class what somebody else just told them that was worth hearing.
10. Another concomitant to the Neighbor Nudge is to ask every student to speak every class period in one of five ways.
 - * to the whole class
 - * to just one neighbor
 - * just to God in prayer
 - * writing a note to himself/herself to read later
 - * in a group of triads or quad [3s or 4s]
11. Passed around international money, foreign translations of the Scripture, a smooth stone I picked up about a mile from where David killed Goliath, photos of Syrian refugees, and sugar cane stalks when we're discussing Cuba. I've even brought in the first Bible I ever earned.
12. I've taped money to the classroom ceiling as a reward for the student who wins an in-class contest.
13. Wrapped a "former" football player's arms at his sides with heavy sewing thread representing "little sins" that *[20 times around]*. Asking him to break it without drawing blood. He couldn't.
14. A problem to solve from Scripture was posited and written in the board. Students were allowed to come to the board to write their solutions at anytime during the class period. Six answers were eventually written on the board. Nobody got the answer right. I decided never to do it again because my sharpest students became completely distracted and missed my whole lecture, I think. I'll give you the question, if you like.

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15. Dressed up 14 students in simple costumes to represent a half billion people each and their accessibility to meet a Christian. Saffron robe, burka, sari, fez, blue jeans, poncho, etc. Taught the verse Luke 10.2, "Pray you therefore . . . send forth laborers into His harvest." Then prayed.
16. Brought my homemade birdhouse to class to illustrate how poorly or effectively four wood shop teachers could "teach" how to make a birdhouse. We applied it to diligent and lazy Bible study leaders and their preparation.
17. Demonstrated wrestling moves [*even though I was wearing a tie and shiny shoes*] using a college student to illustrate the importance of repetition to attain excellence. Applied it to learning how to explain the Gospel through much practice. I even challenged one of the guys on a wrestling team to a contest to see who could touch the other one's shoe first. I won.
18. I informed only one student of a "secret." No one caught on until the lesson I was teaching was finally learned.
19. Walked to the back of the room and spoke for several minutes to emphasize a certain biblical truth.
20. I planted a small lighted candle under the podium prior to the beginning of class. As I spoke of Jesus as "the light of the world." On cue, a student turned out all the lights leaving us in pitch dark. I continued my lecture, and as their eyes became accustomed, I could hear the murmuring as they perceived my source of light.
21. I've used matches [*some paper, some wooden*] as object lessons in 6 different Bible messages to introduce and illustrate different biblical truths.
22. In presenting the importance of building a strong foundation and structure, I built an 8" "tower" out of 5 grams of balsa wood [*about the same weight as 2 nickels*]. It was able to support 125 lbs. It illustrated that spiritual growth takes 1) knowledge of the Word, 2) great yieldedness to the Spirit, and 3) time.
23. YouTube.
24. Visit a Buddhist Temple to teach a friend how to open a conversation about salvation with those of another language and faith. The "learner" later went back and had another delightful conversation after visiting an extensive ceremony.
25. A teacher stood on a chair and told us it was the backseat of a swamp buggy where he watched a 10-year old boy lead another boy to Christ.
26. A professor yelled like a Comanche as he shouted David's cry, "The Battle is the Lord's."
27. A "stuffy old professor" stood on top of his desk while teaching Deuteronomy.
28. As a Bible college student listened enrapt with the emotional story of Hezekiah's prostrating himself before the Lord [*with Rabshakeh's letter at the Temple*] he wept as he dedicated his whole life to get to "know the Lord" in the intimate way Hezekiah must have known the Lord.
29. Teacher told a Bible story as a dialog [not a narrative] and changed his voice for each of the four characters, sometimes whispering, sometimes shouting.
30. Jeff fell asleep toward the end of my college Personal Evangelism class. I shushed the students and we all tip-toed out leaving Jeff to rest.
31. Teacher arranged to have willing students prepare a 3-minute testimony ahead of time pertaining to how they came to faith in Christ.
32. Our class was divided into groups of threes [*triads*] and given a paragraph to explain. We had to find at least 3 points and think of a way we might apply it the next week.
33. Our teacher told of a 10-year old girl who said, "My mother doesn't believe all this stuff about God, and I'm

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not going to, either.”

34. When I lived in Miami, I was asked to memorize Juan 3.16 [[in Spanish](#)]
35. My adult class Sunday School teacher took up an offering for the car mechanic in our class whose own car needed a quart of oil every 15 miles. After we collected a pretty big chunk of change, one of the members said he would donate one of his cars to John.
36. After class had begun Joan sneaked into class crying, the teacher stopped speaking. Class members gathered around her and prayed. Some of us cried. After a long pause the teacher resumed.
37. Tom often shows clips from a video series illustrating events in John.
38. Skype a missionary.
39. Sing Bible verses a Capella whenever they show up in the Scripture which is being taught.
40. For homework we had to circle the word “believe” in the Gospel of John each time [98x] is appeared.